



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Send-offs planned in nine communities for 1,000 Wisconsin National Guard troops

State, local and military officials are planning hometown send-off ceremonies for about 980 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers who are being mobilized this weekend and are expected to be deployed overseas.

The soldiers are members of the 724th Engineer Battalion, with approximately 500 soldiers headquartered in Hayward, with units in Superior, Spooner, Chippewa Falls, Medford, Tomahawk, and Rhinelander; the 1158th Transportation Company, with about 300 soldiers in Tomah, Beloit and Black River Falls; and the 32nd Military Police Company, with about 180 soldiers in Milwaukee and Madison.

Ceremonies in nine of these communities will be held Sunday, March 16; Monday, March 17; and Tuesday, March 18. All events are open to the public.

Planned events include:

Rhineland — Co. C, 724th Engineer Battalion

Time: Sunday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.

Place: Rhineland High School Gym, 665 Coolidge Ave.

Expected Participants: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Rhineland Mayor Kevin Jenkins, State Sen. Roger Breske, State Rep. Dan Meyer, Oneida Co. Board Chairman Leonard Guth.

The Rhineland send-off ceremony will honor about 140 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Hayward — Headquarters Company, 724th Engineer Battalion

Time: Sunday, March 16, 11:30 a.m.

Place: Hayward High School Gym, Greenwood Ln.

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Expected Participants: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Hayward city officials, State Sen. Robert Jauch, State Rep. Gary Sherman, and Sawyer Co. Board Chairman Harold Helwig.

The Hayward send-off ceremony will honor about 110 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Spooner — Company B, 724th Engineer Battalion

Time: Sunday, March 16, 1:30 p.m.

Place: Spooner High School Gym, 500 College St.

Expected Participants: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Spooner Mayor Wayne Kegel, State Sen. Robert Jauch, State Reps. Mary Hubler and Frank Boyle, and Washburn Co. Board Chairman Tom Mackie.

The Spooner send-off ceremony will honor about 140 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by the Spooner High School band and choir and by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Medford — Company A, 724th Engineer Battalion

Time: Sunday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.

Place: Medford Middle School Auditorium, 509 Clark St.

Expected Participants: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Medford Mayor Mike Brandner, State Sen. Dave Zien, State Rep. Mary Williams, and Taylor Co. Board Chairman Jim Metz.

The Medford send-off ceremony will honor about 140 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by the Medford Middle School Band and members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Beloit — Det. 1, 1158th Transportation Company

Time: Monday, March 17, 9:00 a.m.

Place: Beloit National Guard armory, 2700 Kennedy Drive.

Expected Participants: Gov. Jim Doyle, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Beloit City Council President William Watson, Rock County Board Chairman Richard Ott, State Sen. Judith Robson, and State Rep. Debra Towns.

The Beloit send-off ceremony will honor about 135 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Black River Falls — Det. 2, 1158th Transportation Company

Time: Monday, March 17, Noon.

Place: Black River Falls High School, 1200 Pierce Street.

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Expected Participants: Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, Black River Falls Mayor Joseph Hunter, Jackson Co. Board Chairman Steve Dickinson, State Sen. Ron Brown, and State Rep. Terry Musser.

The Black River Falls send-off ceremony will honor about 135 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by the Black River Falls High School Band and members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Tomah — 1158th Transportation Company

Time: Monday, March 17, 2:00 p.m.

Place: Tomah National Guard armory, 520 Mills Street.

Expected Participants: Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, Tomah Mayor Chuck Ludeking, Monroe Co. Board Chairman Dennis Hubbard, and State Rep. Terry Musser.

The Tomah send-off ceremony will honor about 50 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Milwaukee — 32nd Military Police Company

Time: Tuesday, March 18, 9:30 a.m.

Place: Milwaukee National Guard armory, 4108 N. Richards St.

Expected Participants: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Milwaukee Co. Board Chairman Scott Walker.

The Milwaukee send-off ceremony will honor about 110 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Madison — Det. 1, 32nd Military Police Company

Time: Tuesday, March 18, Noon.

Place: Wisconsin National Guard state headquarters, 2400 Wright St.

Expected Participants: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Brig. Gen. Kerry Denson, Madison Mayor Sue Bauman, Dane Co. Executive Kathleen Falk.

The Madison send-off ceremony will honor about 70 National Guard soldiers mobilizing March 15 and who are expected to deploy overseas for up to one year. Also present will be family members, friends, and community supporters. Music will be provided by members of the Wisconsin National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

These mobilizations bring the total number of Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard members on active duty to about 2,250 — which is nearly 23 percent of the Guard's 9,800 soldiers and airmen. Soldiers and airmen from units in 24 Wisconsin communities currently are serving on active duty with the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

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